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TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM TO MR. ACHESON

Mr. Braden suggested that Mr. Carl Spaeth and I submit to you, informally, our views on the subject of the proposed entry of 1000 German scientists and their families. The attached memorandum embodies the views to which Mr. Braden referred. Mr. Spaeth and I will be happy to discuss the matter with you personally if you desire.

Samuel Klaus

Attachment
cc: Mr. Braden
Mr. Spaeth

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TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. ACHESON

Subject: Entry of 1000 German Specialists
and their Families

1. The SWNCC proposal to bring over immediately up to 1000 German technicians and their families, under the sponsorship of the military services, is primarily intended as a denial device, not as an exploitation device.

They presumably represent the bulk of the entire German military technical skill present in the American zone.

Apart from a few very special cases, the bulk of these persons would simply be available for employment in the United States by private concerns, some working on military projects and others not. They have little to contribute that we do not already have in this country nor does the Army or Navy have need or appropriations for their services.

2. The present program is intended as preliminary to the application of most of the scientists for immigrants' visas under the German quota with the facilitation of the State Department as expressed in SWNCC paper 257/5.

3. The bringing over of German scientists in large numbers under military custody as a means of effecting denial was supported by the Department in negotiations

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the military services. That was on the assumption, however, that

- (a) the Germans would be kept in strict military custody equivalent to that of prisoners of war and that
- (b) this step could be explained as a means of enforcing the Potsdam prohibitions against certain types of military research and development by Germans.

The present plan, however, permits both freedom of movement and of employment by the Germans in question after arrival here. It therefore frustrates the purpose of the denial program. They could easily leave for Argentina, Soviet Russia, or Germany without detection; it is questionable whether there would be legal authority, in any event, to prevent such departures. If it is not desired to keep such Germans in strict military custody, it would seem to follow rather that they should be sent to some other place where their activities and movements could be completely controlled, or they should be left in Germany and more strictly controlled there, an obligation which belongs to the Army.

3. The proposed program, even though it does not provide for immigrant or visa status, permits such a movement and employment of Germans in the United States as to justify

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every Latin-American country, including Argentina and Brazil, in demanding the right to import on an equal basis Germans from Germany, from Spain, and from among persons who have been or are to be repatriated under the Allied Repatriation Program to Germany from other countries, including Latin America. Argentina, for example, could promise to subject German atomic scientists to exactly the same type of supervision which we are imposing, and then offer immigrant status and ultimately citizenship in the same way. This would amount to a frustration of the inter-American agreements, particularly Resolution VII of Mexico City and Resolution XXVI of the Committee for Political Defense of Montevideo.

4. It is true that the SWNCC paper proposes to exclude "active Nazis" and supporters of "militarism", but this standard is

- (a) considerably less restrictive than the standards imposed by Resolutions VII and XXVI referred to above and
- (b) provides no basis for the exclusion of persons likely to be a security menace in the United States from the aspect of resurgence of German war potential--it is punitive rather than prophylactic.

Practically clearance would be automatically given
by

(1) the Nazi Party or any of its subsidiaries or of any militant, politico-economic, politico-educational or other group dedicated to serving the interests of the Axis or of any of its allies or satellites; or

(2) any enterprise which, under the appearance of a commercial concern and simultaneously with its specific purposes, has in fact been an organization devoted to promoting the Axis plans for politico-economic penetration; or

(3) any organizations, schools or agencies dedicated to the systematic dissemination of propaganda tending to further the military, political, politico-economic or ideological objectives of any of the Axis powers; or

(c) Have been active members of any of the organizations enumerated under subsection (b), or knowingly helped their activities and purposes."

5. The treatment being proposed for these Germans and their families could not be explained satisfactorily to the American public and to Congress in the light of our refusal to admit into the United States displaced persons and refugees in other countries who have to wait their turn

turn for visa numbers. The type of restriction proposed by the Army is such that it could be complied with by most of the displaced persons and refugees seeking admission into the United States; in view of the absence of thorough exploitation of the Germans and their families in the military interests of the United States, the Department could not justify the difference in treatment on military grounds. Moreover, the public would react unfavorably within the United States to the obtaining of jobs and the increased demand on scarce housing.

6. It is recommended that:

- (a) Consideration be given to the admission to the United States only of persons demonstrated to be scientific specialists whom it is desired to exploit in the military interest, to remain here only for the period of exploitation, and always in military custody. All other persons whom it is desired to deny should be controlled more strictly in Germany, or sent to some other country, such as Great Britain or a possession in the Pacific.
 - (b) The security screening standards for those brought into the United States should be amended to include the standards set forth in Resolution VII
- and

and Resolution XXVI above-mentioned. In addition, security standards should be extended to exclude persons who are actively participating in any movement, plan, or organization devoted to restoration of German economic or war potential. The Army should be instructed to organize counter-intelligence investigation into

(i) the affiliations of scientists proposed for entry in the United States on any basis, and

(ii) movements among German scientists and technicians of a character similar to those disclosed at the Nuremberg trials to have been organized among them after the last war.

(c) All Germans admitted to the United States after such screening should be subject to constant surveillance and investigation organized so as to disclose the existence of any such plans; none should be permitted free movement who are engaged in work prohibited the Germans Germany under the Potsdam Agreement, and all Germans who are shown not to satisfy security standards should be promptly sent back to Germany and

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and placed in custody there.

(d) The Army should be kept accountable for periodic reporting on the progress of their investigations in this field.

(e) The approval of this paper by the State Department implies no commitment as to the Department's disposition of applications for visa entries into the United States of any German specialists, including those brought into the United States under military sponsorship or custody.

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